



194 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-4914
Telephone: (401) 751-7100 Fax: (401) 331-8533
www.RhodeIslandAFLCIO.org • info@RIAFLCIO.com

Rhode Island Works Best When We Say **UNION YES.**

March 3, 2021

Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House - Room 35

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

We write to you today in support of House Bill No. 5012, the Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Care Act and thank Representative Slater for sponsoring this legislation. This bill provides that each nursing home facility in Rhode Island shall have the necessary nursing personnel in sufficient numbers on a twenty-four hour basis, to assess the needs of the residents, to develop and implement resident care plans, to provide direct resident care services, and to perform other related activities to maintain the health, safety and welfare of residents. The bill also ensures that each resident in a nursing home facility in Rhode Island would receive a minimum of 4.1 hours of direct nursing care per day. On behalf of the 80,000 working men and women of the affiliated unions of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, we urge you to enact this vital piece of legislation.

Currently, Rhode Island is the only state in New England that does not have a safe staffing law ensuring a minimum standard of direct nursing care per day. As a result, Rhode Island ranks 42nd in the country for the average total hours of resident care. Given that Rhode Island has the highest proportion of adults aged 85 and older in the country, we must do more to protect our older family members, neighbors, and friends.

In a Fleming & Associates poll conducted last year, 82% of registered voters supported the requirements included in the legislation. Bear in mind the service, work and dedication that these phenomenal direct care workers performed and continue to during the Covid 19 pandemic, by putting the health of themselves and their families at risk to serve their patients.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully ask that you support the Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Care Act. Safe staffing can't wait!

Sincerely,

George Nee, President

Patrick Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer

George H. Nee **President** • Patrick M. Crowley **Secretary-Treasurer**
Cheryl A. Masciarelli **Office Manager** • Mark A. Mancinho **Political and Legislative Director**